

Application No.08/354,450
Amendment dated March 22, 2010
Reply to Office Communication of February 22, 2010

REMARKS

Applicant cancelled claims 1-273, 283, 293 and 294 without prejudice or disclaimer of their subject matter and amended claims 274, 275, 277-280, 282, 284-286, 288-290, 292, 295-298 and 300 to further define Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant amended the title to reflect the subject matter of the claimed invention.

In the Office Communication, the Examiner requested Applicant to present claims 277, 286, 287 and 295 in independent form. Applicant converted claims 277, 286 and 295 into independent form, with claim 287 remaining dependent from claim 286. Applicant submits that claims 277, 286, 287 and 295 are in condition for allowance.

Applicant amended the dependencies of the other related dependent claims to depend from one of now-independent claims 277, 286 and 295, or claims dependent therefrom. Applicant respectfully requests entry of the present amendment as the amendment "obviously places [the] application in condition for allowance" in conformity with MPEP § 1214.07, and the present application is ineligible for RCE practice as it was filed before June 8, 1995. Moreover, all of the remaining dependent claims have been examined, and the only amendments being made to the dependent claims concern the dependency, which is now from allowable independent claims.

Applicant submits that independent claims 277, 286, and 295 are patentable and that dependent claims 274-276, 278-282, 284, 285, 287-292, and 296-300 dependent from one of independent claims 277, 286 and 295, or claims dependent therefrom, are patentable at least due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim. Issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

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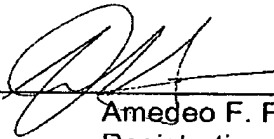
If there are any fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 which are not enclosed herewith, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-3726.

Respectfully submitted,

MARTIN & FERRARO, LLP

Dated: March 22, 2010

By: _____



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